GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:391
ANSWERED ON:29.03.2017
Budgetary Allocation for Differently Abled
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has made adequate arrangements at railway stations, trains, platforms and other railway properties for the benefit of differently abled citizens and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any budgetary allocation has been made for differently abled in the railway budget, 2017-18; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.391 BY SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 29.03.2017 REGARDING BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED

(a): Improvement/augmentation of amenities at railway stations, including those for differently abled passengers is a continuous process. In order to provide better accessibility to passengers with disabilities, short term facilities as detailed below have been planned at all stations, beginning with 'A-1', 'A' & 'B' category stations:
â€¢ Standard ramp for barrier free entry.
â€¢ At least one toilet (on the ground floor).
â€¢ At least one drinking water tap suitable for use by differently-abled persons.
â€¢ Signages of appropriate visibility.
â€¢ Non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to station building.
â€¢ Earmarking at least two parking lots.
â€¢ 'May I help you' Booth.
There are 709 'A-1', 'A' & 'B' category stations on Indian Railways, out of which 632 stations have been provided with all short- term facilities.
In addition, long term facilities, as detailed below, have been planned at 'A-1', 'A' & 'B' category stations:
â€¢ Engraving on edges of platform.
â€¢ Provision of facility for inter-platform transfer.
The details of railway stations provided with facilities for differently abled persons are appended.
Railway is making adequate arrangement in Railway properties for benefit of differently abled persons by way of providing ramp and other facilities in the existing buildings wherever feasible and new buildings have been planned with adequate facilities for differently abled.
Zonal Railways have been authorized to introduce Battery Operated Vehicles (BOVs) at major railway stations for differently abled, elderly and ailing passengers on 'first come first served' basis through sponsorship from individuals, NGOs, Trusts, Charitable institutions, Corporates and PSUs/Corporate Houses under their Corporate Social Responsibility free of charge to passenger or to the Railway. 80 BOVs have already been provided at 54 major railway stations. Further, instructions have also been issued to Zonal Railways to invite Expression of Interest for providing the facility of Battery Operated Car service on payment basis initially at all A1 category stations keeping in view the financial sustainability of the service. This facility can be availed by passengers on 'first come first served' basis, however, preference is given to senior citizens, physically challenged, pregnant women and medically sick passengers.
In addition, Zonal Railways have also been instructed to provide one wheelchair per platform and in case of island platforms one wheel chair per two platforms at all A-1 and A category stations.
Further, Yatri Mitra Sewa has also been introduced at major railway stations for enabling passengers to book wheel chairs services cum porter services free of cost through NGOs, Charitable trust, PSUs etc under CSR and responsibility of providing this facility has been entrusted with IRCTC. In case of lack of response from NGOs, Charitable trust, PSUs etc., this service may be arranged on payment basis through a service provider or on its own.
In order to provide additional facilities for differently abled citizens in train coaches, Indian Railways has developed designs of coaches having a compartment for the differently abled as well as additional features in the lavatories. Some of these features are:
â€¢ Wider entrance door of 920 mm opening for easy movement of wheelchair.
â€¢ Wider, bi-fold inward opening lavatory door of 910 mm for easy movement of wheelchair.

â€¢ Size and cushioning of PWDs berth as per standard of Air-Conditioned 2-Tier berth with knee space of 900 mm for easy movement of wheelchair.
â€¢ Two way alarm communication system between lavatory & compartment.
â€¢ PWDs berth number engraved in Braille lipi also.
â€¢ Anti-slip flooring in lavatory area.
â€¢ Handrails in lavatory as well as in compartment area for wheelchair parking.
For the assistance of the visually impaired travelers, Integrated Braille Signages, i.e. signages superimposed with Braille scripts, are being provided in the newly manufactured coaches. Further, retrofitment of the same in existing coaches has also been taken up in a phased manner.
In order to facilitate easy movement of elderly, sick and differently abled passengers and for smooth access to platforms of major railway stations and for ease of movement, as per the existing guidelines, escalators/lifts are provided at 'A1' category and escalators at 'A' category, 'C' category stations and stations of tourist importance, progressively based on techno commercial feasibility & availability of fund. Provision of lifts and escalators at stations is a continuous process and is done as per need and priority of work.
Accordingly, Indian Railways plan to provide about 770 no. of escalators and about 620 no. of lifts, out of which so far, about 370 no. of escalators at 167 stations & about 183 no. of lifts at 98 stations have been installed across Indian Railways. Further, in the Budget 2017-18, it has been announced that about 500 stations shall be provided with lifts and escalators progressively as part of "Sugamya Bharat Mission".
(b) & (c): In the Accounting & Budgeting system of Indian Railways, there is no specific head meant for allocation towards differently-abled persons. In Capital segment of Budget, works relating to facilities/amenities for travelling public, including those for differently-abled persons like provision of escalators, elevators, ramps etc., are taken up under Plan Head − 'Passenger Amenities', while arrangement in coaches for differently-abled passengers are done under Plan Head - 'Rolling Stock'. However, these figures are not amenable to segregation. Funds of approximately ` 1100 Crores have been allocated under Plan Head − 'Passenger Amenities' for the financial year 2017-18.
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